

Afghanistan Research Newsletter

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AFGHANISTAN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION UNIT

Improving Afghan Lives Through Research

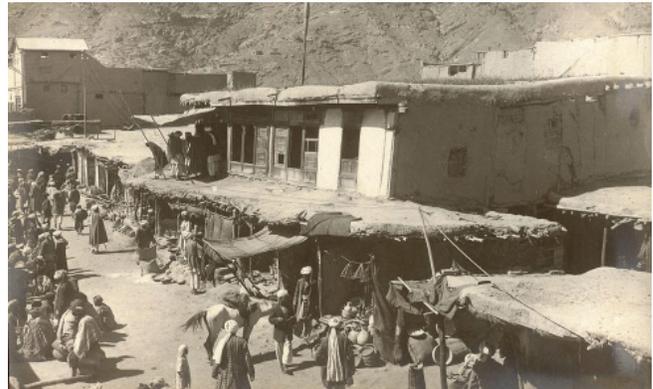
Feature: Hidden Kabul

by Jolyon Leslie

“Let the reader conceive a broken succession of houses, composed of mud walls of different elevations, pierced here and there with wooden pipes to carry off the rain from the flat roofs.....then let him imagine... the entrance to the residence of some great man, with a mulberry tree occasionally peering over the wall; add to this a thick crowd, and he will form a good idea of a Kabul street.”¹

This account from 1840, of what was then the centre of Kabul, could as well apply to surviving parts of the city’s historic fabric today, nearly 170 years later. Rarely visited now, the network of narrow alleyways between traditional homes south of the Kabul River is where many of the narratives of Afghan history and society come together; shrines, mosques and *daramsals* (Sikh or Hindu religious buildings) embody the diverse strands of faith; crumbling houses retain traces of past prosperity and style; rickety wooden *serais* are stacked high with brash plastic imports; empty new office-buildings tower above ruins that are the preserve of drug-addicts; mounds of earth bear witness to fierce fighting that took place in 1993, and are all that is left of the homes of families now scattered through the city, and across the globe.

At a point in their history when they are being urged to look forward, and leave their dark past behind them, the old city seems to embody what Afghans are at risk of losing. It is as though nothing has been learned from the experience of 50 years ago when the Jade Maiwand road was driven through the historic fabric, to provide the ruling elite with a symbol of a “modern” city, but in fact it merely concealed the jumble of traditional buildings behind regular facades. Subsequent efforts by Afghan planners (and their foreign advisers) to wipe what they regarded as a “slum” off the city map also failed. It is ironic that, given their fierce opposition to modernism, it was Islamist fighters who nearly succeeded where professionals had failed, when they reduced much of the historic



Part of the central bazaar, of Kabul c. 1922 (Wilhelm Rieck photograph, courtesy of Werner Mueller)

fabric to rubble during their battle for Kabul in 1993-1994.

Nearly a decade later, it was on the site of this battle that the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) initiated a pilot conservation project. As the quality of the carved timber columns and plaster decoration of a war-damaged 19th-century mosque resurfaced from beneath layers of paint and grime, the history and experiences of a community displaced during the conflict also emerged. Having restored the first mosque to its former glory, the AKTC team has gone on to work on eight other mosques, two shrines, a *madrasa*, two traditional *hammams* (bath houses) and more than a dozen fine historic homes. This has enabled some 100 masons, carpenters and plasterers to develop their craft skills through apprenticeships. Along with the upgrading of infrastructure across an area that is home to some 20,000 people, the programme continues to generate much-needed employment within the old city.

As important as the physical and economic outcomes, however, is the opportunity for detailed observation and analysis that the projects have provided over a period of six years. Door-to-door surveys, group consultations, photographic documentation, and conversations with both community elders and residents have provided an insight into the history, memories and reality of contemporary life in the old city. In particular, an oral history initiative has explored the events, practices and places that have shaped

¹ Godfrey Vigne, *A Personal Narrative of a Visit to Ghazni, Kabul and Afghanistan and of a Residence at the Court of Dost Mohamed* (London: Whittaker, 1840), p. 158-9.

people's lives there, revealing the sense of pride and attachment that many residents feel to the place:

“Born in Asheqan wa Arefan, I am the great-great grandson of Haji Mohammad Faroq, who travelled to Mecca on foot....I worked as a policeman but, after the Saur revolution [1978] fled to Iran.....under the Taliban, I was one of 14 chefs who cooked in the Arg palace....I had four brothers, five sisters, and 42 nephews and nieces..... The house in which I live, which was bought by my father and mother together, was built more than 250 years ago.... it had cupboards, mirrors and traditional wooden ceilings, but these were destroyed. The upper windows of the house had pattaï [carved wooden panels] which we opened in the summers. The craftsmen who built it also worked on Darulaman palace... some of the houses in the old city were so large that it was easy to lose one's way inside them...every home had a well, many of which were dug during the war with the British, so that families could withstand a siege. In the past, we had gates on almost every street and, as a child, 10 or 15 of us would swing on them. The last time that the gates were closed is said to have been during the fighting with the British. Even when I was young, the gates were not closed at night, as no one



Restoration under way in Jelan house in Asheqan wa Arefan (AKTC photograph)

dared to walk in the streets or steal, as the people of Asheqan wa Arefan have always been fighters. There were of course thieves who lived here, but everyone knew who they were and would find them if anything was stolen. The thieves were allowed to steal elsewhere, but not in Asheqan wa Arefan. Our gates were destroyed in the fighting....”

This seems like a far cry indeed from the situation now facing the historic quarters, whose resident population increased by 15 percent between 2003 and 2005, due mainly to the return of displaced families as rents and property prices increased across Kabul. With residential densities here probably the highest in the city,² most traditional housing in poor condition and access to public services limited, the area is the most affordable place for those arriving from

the provinces to find accommodation. More than a third of residents are recent arrivals, most of them live in overcrowded quarters; on average four people occupy each habitable room in the Chindawol area of the old city. More than half of the residents rent space in homes whose owners have little incentive to repair them or provide services; a third of families lack proper bathing facilities, and rely on public standpipes for their domestic water.

² Up to 314 persons/hectare in Shor bazaar, and 250 persons/hectare in Asheqan wa Arefan.

Oral History Publications about the Old City

The two illustrated pamphlets listed below, which document the oral traditions of the old city of Kabul, have recently been released in English and Dari. For questions regarding these documents, contact shafiq.mashal@akdn.org.

“People and Homes in the Old City: Haji Langar Zamin’s House: Kabul Old City Oral History Project.” [Kabul]: Aga Khan Trust for Culture, [2008]. 15 p.

“Traditions of the Old City: The Power of Healing: Kabul Old City Oral History Project.” [Kabul]: Aga Khan Trust for Culture, [2008]. 12 p.



KABUL OLD CITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
People and homes in the Old City
Haji Langar Zamin's House

For the half of working residents who depend for a livelihood on casual labour, it is worth enduring abject living conditions so that they can live close to adjoining commercial areas. This factor is as important for children as adults, a survey of 450 workshops in Shor bazaar in 2006 showed that nearly half of the labour force was comprised of children or teenagers. The fact that these children are missing education does not bode well for the future of a community in which half of households are presently headed by an illiterate.

Nor does the ostentatious “development” of other areas of Kabul bode well for the surviving historic quarters. While abject poverty has always rubbed shoulders with relative prosperity in this part of town, the sheer scale and pace of investments in urban real-estate - most of which is uncontrolled - is unprecedented, and is putting huge pressure on what is left of the historic fabric. Mercifully free so far of the barriers and enclaves that seem to characterize so much of the rest of Kabul, long-term residents of the old city can be forgiven for reminiscing about the experience of their forebears, and sounding as defiant. A community elder explained, politely but firmly, to a member of the cabinet during a meeting in a mosque beside Baghe Qazi in 2007:



Khaluddin, caretaker of the Asheqan wa Arefan shrine (AKTC photograph)

Our grandfathers planned, built and defended this place - not any government. What makes you think that you can come from the suburbs and tell us how to manage our neighbourhood now?

If Afghans who aspire to develop Kabul or other cities lose sight of their past, they may do so at their peril.

Kabul, December 2008

The Afghanistan Research Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU). The purpose of the Newsletter is to alert readers to new research being undertaken on Afghanistan and to help disseminate research findings and analysis. Some of the resources cited are available on the internet; most books and other publication are available at the AREU library, located in the AREU office (corner of Flower Street and Street 2) and open to researchers Sunday to Thursday, 9am-12:30pm and 1pm-4pm. The Newsletter is compiled by Royce Wiles and Dr. Abdul Jamil Alkozai, and translated by Ahmadullah Amarkhil and Yahya Zaki. If you have ideas for books or other publications or resources that should be included in the Newsletter, please send an email to newsletter@areu.org.af.

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is an independent research organisation based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to conduct high-quality research that informs and influences policy and practice. AREU also actively promotes a culture of research and learning by strengthening analytical capacity in Afghanistan and facilitating reflection and debate. Fundamental to AREU's vision is that its work should improve Afghan lives. AREU has recently received funding from: the European Commission; the governments of Denmark (DANIDA), the United Kingdom (DFID), Switzerland (SDC), Norway and Sweden (SIDA); the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the Government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; the World Bank; UNICEF; the Aga Khan Foundation; and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). More information and PDF files of all AREU publications are available at www.areu.org.af.

Research News

National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (NRVA): 2007-08 Update

In August 2008, the European Commission-funded National Surveillance System (NSS) project, working closely with Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO), successfully completed 12 months of field work for NRVA 2007-08.

In 2005, the NRVA was conducted from June until August, which coincided with the end of the harvest and meant that households had more resources at that time than they would have at other times of the year. There was a change in approach, however, for the NRVA 2007-08; the same questions were asked every month, over a period of 12 months, in order to capture seasonal variations.

Data entry for all 12 months (via a scanning process) was completed by the end of 2008. Separate data sets have been prepared for each three-month quarter. Currently, data sets are available from the CSO website (www.cso-af.org); these partial data sets have already been released to some organizations.

NRVA 2007-08 includes 46 analytical domains: the rural areas of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, 11 provincial centres that have been identified as urban areas and one data sample from the Kuchi population. The Kuchi data was only taken during summer and winter and is only representative at a national level. Field teams were present in each province during the entire year, randomly selecting villages and households for inclusion.

These data provide indications of provincial changes and are not representative at the district level. The data sets for each district can be separated, however, and may be useful units for analysis if the samples selected are sufficiently large (based on the population of the district).

For provinces that include both urban centre data and rural data, these can either be used together (to represent the entire province) or separately.

It is projected that, as in previous years, the data from NRVA 2007-08 will be released as a Microsoft Access database. Organisations interested in acquiring the data should request permission from the Vulnerability Assessment Unit/NSS unit of CSO and MRRD, by using the data request form available on the CSO website (www.cso-af.net) or by email request to Amanullah Assil at: amanullah.assil@mrrd.gov.af.

Academic Research Unit (ARU), Kateb Institute of Higher Education

www.kateb.edu.af

There is a shortage of research centres in Afghanistan; ARU was established by the Kateb Institute in order to contribute to the country's development process by conducting academic research on political, social and legal issues.

The three objectives of ARU are as follows:

- to contribute to the legal, cultural, social and political reconstruction of Afghanistan by conducting applied research;
- to provide the information necessary for government organizations to plan accurately, soundly and effectively in legal, cultural, social and political affairs;
- to promote research as an important means for addressing problems and encouraging substantial development in Afghanistan.

Provincial Profiles

The AREU library regularly receives requests for sources of information about specific provinces in Afghanistan, a few of the most useful sources are listed below. In addition, the annual statistical handbook of the Central Statistical Office frequently lists data by province (data for 1386 is the latest available).

- The most comprehensive recent provincial profiles are the CSO/UNFPA socio-economic profiles of each of the 34 provinces; around 100 pages of statistical indicators are compiled (2003-2005). These have been described in earlier issues of this newsletter (Issue 15/16 p. 7 and 17 p.7).
- From the US Naval Postgraduate College Program for Culture and Conflict Studies (CCS) recent provincial “overviews” are made available (2004-2008) at the URL below. From the dropdown menus other downloads are: district maps, election results, land-cover maps, opium survey, tribal maps, etc. The CCS profiles include literacy rate by province. <http://www.nps.edu/Programs/CCS/ExecSumm.html>
- In 2007 provincial profiles were released by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). Labelled “Provincial development plans” on the website, these are summaries of provincial information for 30 of the 34 provinces (Panjsher, Paktya, Parwan and Samangan are not covered). Some of the information has been extracted from unpublished government sources. Topics include general information (including area in square kilometers), demographics, institutions, donor activity, infrastructure and natural resources, private sector activity, education, health, social protection, governance and security sections. Some district level information is also available. <http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Development%20Plan.htm>
- In 2006 MRRD and UNDP released short provincial profiles (4-10 pages) for 25 provinces prepared with “GRM International”. These were part of studies for the Regional

Rural Economic Regeneration Assessment and Strategies (RRERS). These areas were made up of clustered provinces with similar geographical features and market activities, with the exception of the border districts of Badakhshan. The provinces for which information was not included were: Khost, Paktika, Day Kundi, Sari Pul, Jawzjan, Farah, Nuristan, Kunduz, and Panjsher. <http://www.undp.org.af/Publications/rrers.htm>

- In 2003 UNHCR released a series of 200-odd district profiles covering areas to which they thought Afghan refugees would return. These short profiles (2-3 pages each) contain a range of information concerning population and the general situation in the districts covered and were produced by UNHCR informants who visited each district. The profiles are arranged broadly by region. <http://www.aims.org.af/sroot.aspx?seckeyo=52&seckeyz=38>

For seven provinces there are also older detailed socio-economic profiles from 1991-1992 produced by UNIDATA (others were planned but never published). These were based on field studies from 1990 onwards, they provided an analysis of the then current state of economic and social conditions and physical infrastructure at the provincial and sample locality level. Information from other sources on each province was also incorporated to complement and check consistency. (These are all downloadable as PDFs from AREU’s on-line bibliographic database):

- Badakhshan
- Balkh
- Bamyan
- Ghazni
- Kandahar
- Samangan
- Wardak

New Provincial Profiles from UNAMA

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). “Humanitarian Provincial Profiles.” Kabul: UNAMA, 2008. For the provinces covered, these one-page summaries identify the following: major humanitarian issues; statistics regarding internally displaced persons; effects of drought; winterization; accessibility; existing coordination mechanisms; agencies implementing humanitarian activities (listed only by abbreviations); government counterparts; and humanitarian challenges. Copies of the following provincial profiles (all dated October 2008) are available at AREU: Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan and Zabul.

For older historical information on particular provinces, localities, districts, cities, some villages etc. the standard reference is Ludwig W. Adamec's six volume *Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan* (Graz: Akademische Druck- und Verlagsanst., 1972-1985. Reprinted in Tehran recently). For individual provinces there

are any number of monograph studies, baseline surveys, reports, NGO accounts, etc. locatable in AREU's on-line bibliographic catalogue (under "Library" from www.areu.org.af) or in the similar database from the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (www.ackuaf.org).

Recent AREU Publications

Gender

A Mandate to Mainstream: Promoting Gender Equality in Afghanistan, by Anna Larson. Gender mainstreaming has been identified as the Government of Afghanistan's chosen strategy for achieving gender equality in the country. A new paper from AREU contends that the implementation of this strategy needs to be strengthened significantly for substantive changes to take place. After a thorough exploration of gender mainstreaming in the Afghan context, the paper presents opinions on its progress from staff working within eight different ministries. It presents the achievement of gender mainstreaming to-date and suggests both technical and institutional ways forward.

Governance

Elections in 2009 and 2010: Technical and Contextual Challenges to Building Democracy in Afghanistan, by Grant Kippen. By examining the last elections in Afghanistan and considering the developments since then, this new report from AREU assesses current preparations for and attitudes toward the upcoming 2009 and 2010 elections. To support Afghanistan's democratic development, it is imperative that the upcoming elections are credible and transparent in the eyes of the Afghan people. Focusing on two major factors – technical processes and contextual issues – the paper points out key actors in the elections and the steps they should take to resolve difficulties encountered during the 2004 and 2005 elections in the country. It pays specific attention to voter

registration, candidate vetting and financing processes, public awareness issues, capacity building and the swiftly changing security situation in Afghanistan.

Health

Afghanistan's Hidden Drug Problem: The Misuse of Psychotropics, by David Macdonald. Afghanistan has gained notoriety as the world's leading producer of opium and heroin, but less well known is that it also has an increasing number of problem drug users. While popular perceptions of drug misuse and dependency in the country tend to focus on illicit drugs, the evidence suggests that many people also misuse psychotropics – pharmaceutical drugs such as painkillers and tranquilisers that are often cheap and widely available from pharmacies and other retail outlets.

Livelihoods

From Disappointment to Hope: Transforming Experiences of Young Afghans Returning "Home" from Pakistan and Iran, by Mamiko Saito. The overwhelming majority of refugees who fled during decades of conflict in Afghanistan relocated to Pakistan and Iran. A sizeable number of these are young Afghans who have spent most, if not all, of their lives in these neighbouring countries. Beyond a "return to homeland" perspective, this briefing paper examines the challenges faced by these second-generation refugees in relation to both the decision to return as well as reintegration in Afghanistan. It addresses gaps



that exist in the understanding of their social and emotional experiences such as struggles with identity, rejection and discrimination. These issues, either alone or when combined with difficulties in meeting material needs, have important implications for Afghanistan's ongoing refugee repatriation and reintegration efforts. The paper includes policy recommendations focused on potentially shifting factors toward voluntary return and positive reintegration experiences.

Opium Poppy and Informal Credit, by Adam Pain. This issues paper examines the link between opium poppy cultivation and informal credit systems in Afghanistan. The report challenges existing assumptions that opium poppy cultivation results in particularly harmful debt and high-cost credit. It encourages deeper scrutiny into opium's role in and effect on rural households and communities, with implications for opium poppy eradication programmes, rural livelihoods, and the availability of and need for different types of credit.

“Factors Influencing Decisions to Use Child Labour: A Case Study of Poor Households in Rural Badakhshan,” by Pamela Hunte and Anastasiya Hozyainova. This is the second case study in a three-part series examining household decision-making on the use of child labour in urban and rural Afghanistan. The research focuses on factors beyond poverty – such as debt, social relations, educational opportunities and gender roles – that lead some poor households to use child labour while others do not. The study is based on in-depth interviews with the households of ten village children that explore the forms of child labour in a rural setting and the processes that households use to decide which of their children will work and what activities they will perform.

“Factors Influencing Decisions to Use Child Labour: A Case Study of Poor Households in Herat,” by Amanda Sim and Marie-Louise Høiland-Carlsen. This case study of two sites in Herat province concludes a three-part series examining household decision-making around the use of child labour in urban and rural Afghanistan. This study identifies and explores the ways in which households' evaluation of education and work trade-offs – and their direct and opportunity costs – influence decisions about child labour. The study also describes the types and conditions

of work commonly performed by children, and attempts to assess the potential positive and negative effects of work on children's access to education and their physical and psychosocial well-being.

“Microcredit, Informal Credit and Rural Livelihoods: A Village Case Study in Balkh Province,” by Erna Andersen and Amanda Sim. This case study is the third and final in a series of three that examines how the entry of microcredit into village and household economies in Afghanistan affects informal credit relations and livelihood outcomes, either directly or indirectly, through effects on the overall village economy. It asserts that because credit and social relations are deeply intertwined, microcredit must be seen as more than simply a financial transaction. The paper recommends that microfinance institutions better understand informal credit relations as well as methods for providing demand-driven services appropriate for local livelihood activities.

Natural Resources Management

Counter-Narcotics in Afghanistan: The Failure of Success?, by David Mansfield and Adam Pain. Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan shows no signs of sustainable reduction, despite bans and ever-changing terms of trade, according to a new AREU paper. To truly understand what will create sustainable change in the Afghan opium industry, observers will need to improve the tools being used to measure the success of counternarcotics efforts. Measuring opium poppy-cultivated area serves as one of the few – and, in some cases, the only – means of gauging counter-narcotics success or failure. But relying on this indicator alone will not give policymakers an accurate sense of what drives opium poppy cultivation or what will sustainably reduce it. Until new indicators can inform counter-narcotic policy, perceptions of “failure” or “success” will likely continue to focus on short-term fixes rather than reach the root of the problem with long-term solutions. The paper concludes that a number of other indicators should be studied to improve policy concerning opium, including: incomes, physical security, food security, commodity markets and cropping system diversification. It also offers viable suggestions for ways to measure these markers of success or failure.

Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy: Natural Resources Management, Farming Systems and Rural Livelihoods, by Alan Roe. This paper synthesises the preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations emerging from the first year of AREU's study, "Applied Thematic Research into Water Management, Livestock and the Opium Economy" (abbreviated as WOL). It examines irrigation methods and water management systems, and draws linkages between water availability, livestock production and opium cultivation. Based on this analysis, the paper makes recommendations for the improvement of natural resource access, rural development and agricultural policy.

"Let Them Eat Promises': Closing the Opium Poppy Fields in Balkh and its Consequences," by Adam Pain. International agencies have claimed that incentives and improvements in security and governance, preceded and led to the end of opium cultivation in Balkh Province in 2007. Afghan officials offer a different interpretation of events, effectively admitting that the closure was due to coercion. The field evidence presented in this report does not support claims that farmers' decisions to stop cultivating opium poppy stemmed from the provision of incentives or development – nor does it find evidence of improved governance or security. If anything, conditions are worse. The sudden closure of opium poppy cultivation in Balkh has prompted a decline in livelihood security for many rural households.

New Publications and Resources

Cross-cutting

Afghanistan in 2008: A Survey of the Afghan People. Kabul: The Asia Foundation, 2008. 187 p. <http://www.asiafoundation.org/publications/force-download.php?f=%2Fresources%2Fpdfs%2FAfghanistanin2008.pdf> (996 KB). In this study, the fourth nationwide survey conducted by the Asia Foundation, 6,593 Afghans across all 34 provinces were interviewed. In 2008, a total of 543 interviewers (an increase from 494 interviewers in 2007) conducted data collection. In December, following the release of this survey report, the Asia Foundation released a companion analytical volume that reflects on the findings from the 2008 survey regarding Afghan public opinion.

"Working on Conflict: A Summary of an Assessment for ActionAid Afghanistan." Kabul: Cooperation for Peace and Unity, 2008. 4 p. <http://www.cpau.org.af/docs/Working%20on%20Conflict%20in%20Afghanistan%20-%20Summary.pdf> (214 KB). This summary of an important review, carried out for ActionAid Afghanistan (AAA) by Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU), addresses the potential for programmes and activities regarding conflict in Afghanistan. The review indicates that many of the core elements of Afghan identity and society as well as political and economic life are conflictual. The situation is further complicated by the variety of peoples, cultures and economic livelihoods

represented within the country. This means that any single interpretation of conflict is unlikely to be sufficiently comprehensive to provide a solid understanding of the range of ongoing conflicts. Playing on the strengths of rights-based NGOs, however, the report suggests that it should be possible to develop a nuanced understanding of conflicts and how to potentially address them through sustained relationships with communities at a grassroots level. These organisations must be able to take the wide range of conflict-causing factors in Afghanistan into consideration and understand the impact of those factors, both long- and short-term, so that the causes of conflict can be addressed through the design of programme interventions.

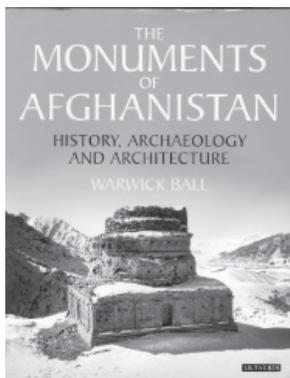
Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook, Volume 29 (2007-2008). Kabul: Central Statistics Office, 2008. 300 p. The 1386 (March 2007-March 2008) edition of this annual accumulation of official statistics was released in September 2008 by Afghanistan's Central Statistics Office (CSO). The yearbook was first published in the 1970s; however, no volumes were published from 1375 until 1379 (1996-97 until 2000-01). For the first time, separate volumes have been published in English/Dari and English/Pashto. No electronic version of the document is available. To purchase a hardcopy for 1000 Afs (US\$20), contact Baz Mohammad at the Publications department of the CSO: 0202 100 329

Archaeology and History

Ball, Warwick. *The Monuments of Afghanistan: History, Archaeology and Architecture.* London:

I.B. Tauris, 2008. 298 p. ISBN: 1850434360, 9781850434368.

“No history of China, India, Persia or Russia can be fully understood without continual reference to Afghanistan and Central Asia as a whole. This book aims to place Afghanistan and its monuments in a broader cultural context” (preface).



Cambon, Pierre, Jean-Francois Jarrige, Paul Bernard and Veronique Shiltz. *Hidden Afghanistan.* Amsterdam: Museumshop De Nieuwe Kerk, 2007. 288 p. ISBN: 9789078653066. This book was published on the occasion of an exhibition held at the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam and the Hermitage Amsterdam, from December 22, 2007 until April 20, 2008. The exhibition was originally held at the Musée des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet, Paris. This catalogue, which includes many illustrations, shows treasures from the collection of the National Museum of Afghanistan.

Hotak, Mohammad Masoom. *Afghan Shaghasis.* Translated by Zaki Hotak. Kandahar, Afghanistan: Allama Rashad Publishing, 2008. 53 p. Originally written in Pashto, this book includes translations of sections of a larger, as yet unpublished historical work in Pashto entitled *Kandahari Brothers*. These sections focus on the Shaghasi family. The publisher can be contacted at: m_rohyal2006@hotmail.com or mrohyal@gmail.com

Children

“A Rapid Assessment on Child Labour in Kabul.” Kabul: Altai Consulting, January 2008. 114 p. (PDF, 1 MB). The objective of this rapid assessment was to provide an overview of hazardous forms of child labour in Kabul. This document presents the results of research conducted by Altai Consulting for the International Labour Organization’s International Programme on the Elimination

of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC). The research took place in 10 districts of Kabul during November and December 2007. This study highlights the living and working conditions of child workers as well as factors that drive children to engage in hazardous activities. The document offers a set of recommendations specifically for Kabul and asserts that a similar effort is needed at the national level to identify and eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Kang, Kristopher. “Orphans Reunification Project Evaluation: Part 1 – Social Work Timing and Process.” Kabul: UNICEF, 2008. 15 p. The Orphans Reunification Project (ORP) began in May 2006 with the goal to, over a one-year period, reunify 400 children (from two state-run Kabul orphanages) with their extended families and reintegrate them into the larger community. Ultimately, the project succeeded in reintegrating 363 children. This report seeks to assess the quality of ORP social work in a sample of those cases.

“Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan. [New York]: United Nations, 10 November, 2008. 18 p. <http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=S/2008/695&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC> (PDF, 92 KB). This report focuses on grave abuses perpetrated against children in Afghanistan and identifies parties to the conflict, including both state and non-state actors, who commit these abuses. In particular, the report highlights the fact that children have been recruited and utilized by state and non-state armed groups and that non-state armed groups, such as the Taliban, continue to train and use children as suicide bombers. The report sheds light on the detention of children accused of association with armed groups by the Government of Afghanistan as well as on international military forces in violation of Afghan law and international best practices. The report also discusses the worrisome increase in the number of children who are victims of attacks against schools and communities by non-state armed groups, including the ever-increasing number of children inadvertently killed during engagements involving international and Afghan forces. Finally, the report surveys the need for greater attention to the problem of sexual violence against children (in particular, against

Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)

A large number of documents related to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) 1387-1391 were uploaded as PDF files to the (repaired) ANDS website during October 2008: http://www.ands.gov.af/ands/ands_docs/index.asp (210 MB total).

boys) in the context of the ongoing armed conflict in Afghanistan. The report acknowledges the significant challenges in addressing child rights violations in Afghanistan and outlines a series of recommendations to end grave violations of children's rights.

Volume 1: ANDS Documents This contains the main report (265 p., in English only) as well as the executive summary, the Paris Declaration and Afghanistan Compact.

Volume 2A: Sector Strategies These documents outline strategies for important sectors of the government and the economy (all sector strategies are available in Dari and English, unless otherwise noted): Agriculture and Rural Development; Anti-Corruption; Capacity Building; Counter-Narcotics; Education; Energy; Environment; Gender Cross-cutting Sector Strategy; Governance and Public Administration Reforms; Health & Nutrition; Information and Communication Technology; Justice and Rule of Law; Media, Culture and Youth; Mines; Private Sector Development (English only); Refugees, Returnees and IDPs; Regional Cooperation; Religious Affairs; Social Protection; Transport & Civil Aviation; Urban Development; Water Resource Management.

Volume 2B: Annexes to Sector Strategies These annexes were released, beginning in 1385 (2006-07), in draft form; most of the annexes included on the ANDS website appear to be unchanged from their original form. Unless otherwise noted, these documents are available in Dari and English. They address topics related to government ministries, the National Assembly and government agencies such as the Academy of Sciences, the Afghanistan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), Da Afghanistan Bank and others.

Volume 3: Provincial development plans (PDPs) For each of the 34 provinces, the website includes a document (in PDF format) of approximately 90-100 pages that outlines its proposed development. These documents are currently only available in Dari and Pashto.

Earlier documents related to the ANDS process held in the AREU library include:

- [Alami, Anayatullah.] "ANDS Backgrounder." [2008]. 2 p. This list of 13 points identifies major issues with volume 1 of the final report.
- "Finland's Comments on the Draft Afghanistan National Development Strategy." 2008. 5 p.
- "German comments on the draft ANDS." 2008. 2 p.
- "Joint Staff Advisory Note on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, Prepared by Staffs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Development Association (IDA)." IMF Country Report No. 08/193. Washington, DC: International Monetary Fund, 15 May 2008. 14 p. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=22073.0> (PDF, 183 KB).

Development

“Afghanistan: Preventing an Approaching Crisis.” Briefing Note. London: Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, 2008. 2 p. <http://www.rusi.org/downloads/assets/RUSIAfghanBriefingNotepdf.pdf> (77 KB). This brief paper identifies an impending crisis in Afghanistan’s food supply during the coming winter and asserts the need for pre-emptive action to avert famine in parts of the country.

Afghanistan: State and Society, Great Power Politics and the Way Ahead: Findings From an International Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2007. Edited by Cheryl Bernard, et al. Santa Monica, CA, USA: Rand Corporation, Center for Middle East Public Policy, 2008. 92 p. ISBN: 9780833044150. http://rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2008/RAND_CF238.pdf (838 KB). Contents: “US Interests and Stakes in Afghanistan: In for the Long Haul or Gone Tomorrow?”, by Peter Viggo Jakobsen; “Understanding Iranian Strategy in Afghanistan”, by Michael Rubin; “Afghanistan and the Boomerang Effect”, by Mikkel Vedby Rasmussen; “Hokkumat versus Yaghistan: The Historical Challenge of State-tribe Conflict to State Building in Afghanistan”, by Ali Alfoneh; “The Tribal Structure of Waziristan: Implications for Counterterrorism Policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan”, by Angel Rabasa; “Sad Wisdom of Hindsight: Soviet Intervention in Afghanistan (1979-1989)”, by Pavel K. Baev; “The Next Afghanistan”, by Cheryl Benard; “Are We Learning? Military Engagement: The Taliban, Past and Present”, by Samina Ahmed; “Afghanistan: Prospects for Nation Building”, by Ali Jalali; “How to Create a Success for the Afghan National Security Forces”, by Peter Dahl Thruelsen; “Afghanistan at the Crossroads”, by Obaid Younossi and Khalid Nadiri.

Agrawal, Arun. “Mobilizing Rural Institutions for Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Development: TFESSD-supported Comparative Study of Rural Institutions for Improving Governance and Development: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, India, Vietnam, and Yemen.” Washington, D.C: World Bank, [2008]. 68 p. The major findings of this report concern four critical issues in the performance of rural institutions:

1) the relationships among different measures of governance, specifically the inclusion, participation, accountability and adaptability of local institutions; 2) the relationship between governance and livelihoods outcomes in given socioeconomic and political contexts, including equity outcomes; 3) the role of contextual factors in the performance of local institutions; and 4) the nature of external interventions necessary to improve the performance of local institutions, particularly with respect to improvements in the ability of poorer and marginal social groups, such as women, to improve their ability to participate, hold institutions accountable and improve livelihoods. Supporting studies for each of the countries in this report can be found at: <http://go.worldbank.org/G6856TQJB0> (PDF, 430 KB).

“Canada’s Engagement in Afghanistan.” Ottawa: Government of Canada. http://www.afghanistan.gc.ca/canada-afghanistan/documents/r11_08/index.aspx (PDFs). First published in June 2008, this quarterly report from the Government of Canada outlines the objectives of Canadian assistance in Afghanistan. The most recent report, published in September, is available at the above-listed website.

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). “Contingency Contracting: DOD, State, and USAID Contracts and Contractor Personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.” Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, October 2008. 43 p. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0919.pdf> (653 KB). The US Departments of Defense (DOD) and State, as well as USAID, have relied extensively on contractors to carry out a range of services in Iraq and Afghanistan. While recognizing the benefits of using contractors, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and others have noted the challenges and risks associated with increasing reliance on contractors and the ability of agencies to manage their growing number of contractors. This document is a GAO analysis of 18 months of DOD, State and USAID data on contracting activities in Iraq and Afghanistan; the report identifies significant gaps in monitoring and data collection.

Elizondo, Luis. “Espacio para Respirar: El Humanitarismo en Afghanistan (2001-2008).” Madrid, Spain: Instituto Complutense de Estudios

Internacionales, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 2008. 79 p. ISBN 9788469166635 (PDF, 484 KB). Afghanistan exists in the midst of a geopolitically complicated region, and all of the following activities are currently all underway there: “postconflict” reconstruction, counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, peace-building and anti-narcotics campaigns. Attempting to provide humanitarian assistance in this complex situation reveals a number of competing agendas and corresponding actors. In Afghanistan, humanitarianism is in a vulnerable position, at risk of being overrun by international political and military imperatives.

“Lashkar Gah Bost Airport and Agriculture Center, Helmand Province, Afghanistan: Environmental Assessment.” [Washington, D.C.]: Chemonics, October 2008. 71 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADN048.pdf (5.14MB). This document is an environmental assessment of two related projects in Lashkar Gah: an upgrade to the airport, allowing it to better serve regional needs, and work on a centre (within the airport) designed to facilitate the export of agricultural goods.

Lurås, Helge. “From Coherent Policy to Coordinated Practice: Are we Delivering Coherently in Afghanistan? Conference, Oslo 17-18 November 2008, Grand Hotel: Background Paper.” Oslo, Norway: Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, 2008. 12 p. <http://www.nupi.no/content/download/7945/79999/file/Background%20Paper%20121108.pdf> (1.01 MB). This background paper provides a broad overview of issues related to delivery of aid to Afghanistan by international actors. It questions the appropriateness of aid delivery for Afghan counterparts. Two additional issues are identified as being particularly problematic: first, rivalry between various international actors and, second, the risk that such actors may create parallel structures that undermine the structures of the nascent Afghan state.

“From Compact to Impact: Defining a Joint Donor Response to the 2008 Paris Conference on Afghanistan.” Lewes, Delaware: Middlebrook & Miller, 2008. 11 p. <http://www.middlebrook-miller.com/assets/Geopolicity%200012008%20-%20Afghanistan%20-%20From%20Compact%20>

to%20Impact%20-%20Middlebrook%20&%20Mille.pdf (235 KB). This paper outlines a set of proposals that support the emergence of a cohesive joint-donor response to the new Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). The paper argues that, although ANDS has limitations, it is still an important middle ground in an otherwise fragmented and contentious environment.

Higashi, Daisaku. “Challenge of Constructing Legitimacy in Peacebuilding: [The] Case of Afghanistan: Final Report.” United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Best Practices Unit. New York: United Nations, September 2008. 76 p. <http://www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/PBPS/Pages/Public/viewdocument.aspx?id=2&docid=901> (PDF, 340 KB). This research paper (based on fieldwork conducted in Kandahar, Wardak and Kapisa during February 2007) tries to identify effective policies for peace-builders to create “legitimate governments,” under which a majority of people comply with the rules of government voluntarily. It examines the role of the United Nations, inclusiveness, reconciliation, local ownership, resource distribution and the use of force.

“Randomized Impact Evaluation of Afghanistan’s National Solidarity Programme (NSP): Summary of Evaluation Methodology and Activities.” July 31, 2008. 6 p. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/AFGHANISTANEXTN/Resources/305984-1220998199117/NSPIESummary.pdf> (204 KB). The randomized impact evaluation of Phase-II of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP-II) is a multi-year study designed to quantify changes (across a broad range of indicators and throughout the life-cycle of program implementation) in 250 “treatment villages” mobilized by the NSP. The evaluation is designed to compare these changes to changes observed in 250 “control villages” that were not participating in the NSP. The evaluation will provide a rigorous and disaggregated assessment of the impacts of the NSP on economic outcomes and the structure of governance and institutions at different stages of program implementation. It is hoped that, by providing a base of evidence for future decisions concerning NSP, this information will be of use to the Government of Afghanistan, donors and civil society.

Selvarajan, S. "Ex-post Economic Analysis of [the] National Solidarity Programme (NSP)." 2008. 46 p. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/AFGHANISTANEXTN/Resources/305984-1201489063036/4608353-1220998199117/NSP Presentation.pdf> (1.4 MB). This study evaluated the viability of NSP projects and their impact on rural communities, particularly focusing on an economic analysis of projects and an estimate of the number of employment opportunities that they generate. Overall, the NSP programme approved and funded 22,458 community projects. Enumerators visited 185 projects to gather data (security limited access to some sites). Projects studied include: irrigation, power, transport and water supply.

"National Solidarity Programme (NSP): Promoting Local Governance." [Kabul]: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, [2008]. 14 p. (PDF, 8 MB) This general presentation contains a map (dated October 2008) that shows NSP community development council distribution by district.

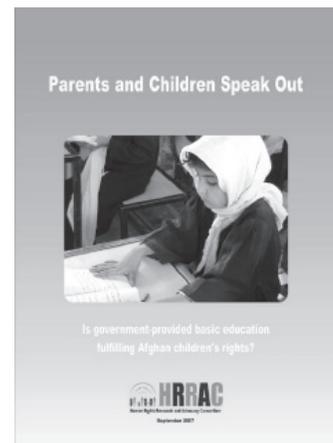
"Takhar Province Five-year Development Program (2007-2011)." [Kabul]: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 2007[?]. 166 p. (PDF, 3 MB). This document is the result of the year-long Provincial Development Planning consultative process facilitated by UNAMA and others. It includes input from ministries, provincial councils, international organizations, community development councils, women's councils, farmer's cooperatives, community elders and other civil society actors. Most of the document is a list of projects for the districts, detailing the number of beneficiaries, priority ranking and the estimated cost.

Education

Menon, Geeta. "Active-learning Pedagogies: Policies, Professional Development and Classroom Practices: A Case Study of Two Post-conflict Contexts, Afghanistan and Somaliland, Case Study 1 Afghanistan." [Washington, D.C.]: USAID, September 2008. 24 p. http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADM720.pdf (188 KB). "Data from a literature review, classroom observations and interviews demonstrate that there is a commitment to pedagogical reform in Afghan classrooms. New techniques are being promoted

and introduced in schools, policy has been formed to support this, and NGOs and government actors are attempting a coordinated training package to promote pedagogical reform. However, a closer look at Afghanistan shows that while teachers might be starting to use new techniques in classrooms, the constraints to implementing an active learning approach seem to be winning out. Teachers are at best using active learning techniques on a sporadic basis and more often in NGO trained classrooms." (Excerpt from Conclusion)

"Parents and Children Speak Out: Is Government-Provided Basic Education Fulfilling Afghan Children's Rights?" Kabul: Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), 2007. 18 p. http://www.afghanadvocacy.org.af/documents/parents_children_speakout.pdf (4.5 MB). HRRAC conducted research in seven provinces around Afghanistan to find out why children are dropping out of school. Survey respondents were asked about their understanding and perceptions of the education system in four primary categories: availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability. The intent was to listen to the concerns of children, parents and teachers, and to share this information with those shaping the education system (p. 1-2). Also published in Dari and Pashto.



Health

Saljuqi, A. Tawab and Mansoor Staniczai. "Ensuring Health Participation for Better Health Outcomes: Two Models from Afghanistan." 2008. 41 p. PDF (764 KB). This set of overheads from the Ministry of Public Health Roundtable (October 20, 2008) reports back on two approaches to promoting community involvement in health care provision in communities in Afghanistan, using Partnership Defined Quality (PDQ) and Participatory Learning in Action (PLA) approaches.

Law and justice

Reed, Sheila, Conor Foley and Hamayon Hamed. "IDLO Italian-funded Projects (2005-2008) for Legal and Judicial Reform in Afghanistan: Evaluation Report." Rome: International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), 2008. 72 p. <http://www.idlo.int/DOCNEWS/277DOC1.pdf> (740 KB). IDLO has worked with the Afghan government since 2001, implementing three major legal reform projects. The focus has been on building the capacity of Afghan legal professionals and institutions. This review was to assist with longer-term planning for 2009-2011 in support of the Afghan National Justice Program.

Suhrke, Astri and Kaja Borchgrevnk. "Negotiating Justice Sector Reform in Afghanistan." 2008[?]. 20 p. "DOI 10.1007/s10611-008-9154-0" In: *Crime, Law and Social Change*. http://www.humansecuritygateway.info/documents/CMI_Afghanistan_NegotiatingJusticeSectorReform.pdf (256 KB). "After almost 25 years of war, the formal justice sector in Afghanistan is dysfunctional, and comprehensive reform of both laws and institutions have been high on the Western-supported agenda for reconstruction. This article examines the post-2001 justice sector reforms in Afghanistan, which appear as a case of problematic legal transplants in a context of legal pluralism and intense political contestation. While Afghanistan's legal traditions are characterized by diversity and constant negotiations between Islamic principles, customary law and Western legal traditions, recent reforms lead by Western donors and Afghan legal modernists have accentuated the conflictual aspects of justice sector reform. The extreme dependence of the Afghan state on Western powers has reduced the element of choice in the reforms and limited the possibility for developing a syncretic (uniting what is different or opposing) and inclusive system." (Excerpt from Abstract).

Wisner, David. "Is Time Ripe for Transitional Justice in Afghanistan?" Medford, Ma.: The Fletcher School, 2008. 12 p. http://www.humansecuritygateway.info/documents/FLETCHER_Afghanistan_

[IsTimeRipeForTransitionalJustice.pdf](#) (301 KB). This paper discusses the steps already taken to advance transitional justice in Afghanistan since 2001, the various elements that obstruct it, and the measures that can realistically be carried out today. Areas covered are the 2007 Amnesty Bill and the continuing weakness of the justice sector.

Irrigation

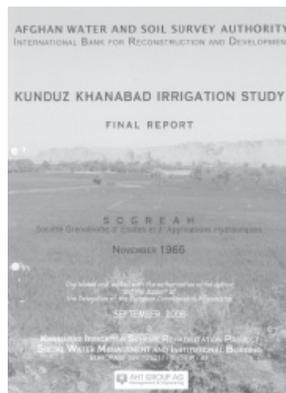
"Kunduz Khanabad Irrigation Study: Final Report." [Grenoble, France]: Société Grenobloise d'Études et d'applications Hydrauliques (SOGREAH), 1966. 3 v. (PDF, 219 MB). This detailed technical report (around 850 pages) was published in November 1966 by the French consultancy company SOGREAH on behalf of the Afghan government and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This document is cited and referred to in many works dealing with water issues in Afghanistan.

However, the documentation of the "Water and Power Authority" and the subsequent ministries in charge of water disappeared for a large part during the years of turmoil. When the Social Water Management part of the Khanabad irrigation Scheme Rehabilitation Project was started in early 2008, it became clear that a lot of information and data documented in this report was important for the improvement of existing irrigation schemes. A printed copy of the report

was found in the company archives in France and this was then digitized and made available in Afghanistan in September 2008. The report contains a wealth of technical data (flow rates from 1958 to 1965, reservoir storage figures, maps of canal systems, descriptions of soils, etc.). A hard copy is available for consultation in the AREU library in Kabul (PDFs are also available from there). For further information please contact: Peter M. Schimann (mps@dahu47.com).

Opium

"Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008," Kabul: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop-monitoring/index.html> (PDF, 4.2 MB). The



Executive Summary was released in August 2008, followed by the full report for the 2008 season in November. According to the survey, Afghanistan now has a smaller, more intensive drug cultivation problem with opium grown exclusively in the areas under insurgent control. There are also concerns about stockpiles of opium that could offset any fall in production.

“Alternative Livelihoods Database Analysis Report: Alternative Livelihoods Investment and Opium Poppy Cultivation Trends 2003-2007.” Kabul: UNODC, 2008. 66 p. (PDF, 3.22 MB).

This paper reviews and analyses the relationship between levels of opium poppy cultivation and planned investment in alternative livelihoods programmes (recorded in the Ministry of Counter Narcotics Alternative Livelihoods Database), between 2003, when substantial funds for alternative livelihoods became available, and 2007, the last full year of implementation. Since 2002, the alternative livelihoods investment funds available have increased every year. However, because of a lack of concomitant conditions, including security and effective governance, in many areas of the country, this investment has not always contributed to a reduction in opium poppy cultivation. Massive investment in the Central Region (US\$ 53,444 per ha) and South Eastern Region (US\$ 39,728 per ha) has contributed to substantial reductions in opium poppy cultivation of between 60% and 100%. However, in the North Eastern Region a much lower level of investment (US\$ 8,609 per ha) has contributed



to a 60% reduction in cultivation. In contrast, a similar level of investment in the Northern Region (US\$ 9,840 per ha) has contributed to only a 2% reduction. On the other hand, in the Western and Southern Regions where investment in relation to the area of opium poppy has been substantially lower (US\$ 3,651 and US\$ 882 per ha, respectively) there have been considerable increases in cultivation.

Merz, Andrew A. “Coercion, Cash-crops and Culture: From Insurgency to Proto-state in

Asia’s Opium Belt.” Monterey, California: Naval Postgraduate School, Department of National Security Affairs, June 2008. 103 p. <http://www.ccc.nps.navy.mil/research/theses/merz08.pdf> (3.1 MB). This MA thesis is a comparative study of conflict and opium in the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, focusing in particular on Afghanistan-Pakistan and Burma. It takes a state-building approach to analyze the formation and composition of opiate-funded “proto-states” in the two regions, with case studies on the Taliban and the United Wa State Party. Historic, political, ethnic and cultural factors are explored in relation to each region and case study.

Microfinance

The following three documents were tabled at a September 2008 Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) meeting that overviewed microfinance initiatives in Afghanistan. As well as summarizing the social impact of the programme (using the Institute of Development Studies (Univ. of Sussex) 2007 study mentioned below), they include sections on statistics, microfinance and Afghan women, and future plans.

“Microfinance: Making a Difference in Afghanistan.” Kabul: MISFA, August 2008. 19 p. (PDF, 1.14 MB)

“Microfinance: Making a Difference in Afghanistan: Presentation to the ARTF Management Committee,” 15 September 2008. 28 p. (PDF, 716, KB).

Greeley, Martin and Mohit Chaturvedi. **“Microfinance in Afghanistan: A Baseline and Initial Impact Study for MISFA.”** 80 p. (PDF 716 KB).

Politics and government

Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG). “Annual Report.” Kabul: Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), September 2008. After a short outline of the history of the IDLG, this report describes IDLG’s achievements in governance, development

and security during its first year. Included is a review of sub-national governance in the country and a description of the process for the development of Provincial Development Plans.



Bruno, Greg. “A Tribal Strategy for Afghanistan.” New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 7 November, 2008. http://www.cfr.org/publication/17686/tribal_strategy_for_afghanistan.html?breadcrumb=/index (HTML, 47 KB). This brief paper outlines the differences of opinion about involving tribal groups in establishing security within Afghanistan.

“Coordinated Strategy for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict.” Kabul: United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), Human Rights Unit and Humanitarian Affairs Unit, 2008. 13 p. (PDF, 401 KB). This strategy identifies the key conflict-related threats to Afghan civilians, and some measures that can be taken to address them. It draws on a range of sources and consultations including those preceding a national workshop on the protection of civilians held in Kabul in August 2007, findings of monitoring and analyses by different actors, including special rapporteurs, and the conclusions of the August 2007 Workshop on the Protection of Civilians.

Harrison, Selig S. “‘Pashtunistan’: The Challenge to Pakistan and Afghanistan.” Madrid, Spain: Real Instituto Elcano, 2008. 7 p. ; 30 cm. http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/wcm/connect/resources/file/eb7c5200fdda309/ARI37-2008_Harrison_Pashtunistan_Afghanistan_Pakistan.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&attachment=true (PDF, 56 KB). This paper reviews the background of claims for a Pashtun homeland (including its historical and political roots), and then examines the implications for NATO and for Pakistani-led military operations in FATA and what it means for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Kuntzsch, Félix. “Afghanistan’s Rocky Road to Modernity: Non-state Actors and Socio-political Entities in the Process of State- and Nation-building.” Quebec City: Université Laval, July 2008. 45 p. http://www.psi.ulaval.ca/fileadmin/psi/documents/Documents/Travaux_et_

[recherches/Afghanistan_s_Rocky_Road_to_Modernity.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/publication/17686/tribal_strategy_for_afghanistan.html?breadcrumb=/index) (392 KB). This paper questions assumptions regarding Afghanistan’s politics and society as shown by uncritical use of terms like nation, ethnicity, warlord or Taliban. The paper examines the notion of state- and nation-building within the context of modernization

and then examines the notions of the Afghan nation, the social categories of ethnicity and tribe, and the role of non-state political actors (“warlords” and the “Taliban”).

Maley, William. “Stabilizing Afghanistan: Threats and Challenges.” Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2008. 7 p. <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=22337&prog=zgp&proj=zsa> (PDF, 224 KB). According to this paper, stability in Afghanistan and the future of its government depend on the United States and its allies working with Afghans to provide security for the Afghan people. Calls for an Iraq-style “troop surge” ignore the immediate need for a comprehensive political strategy to fix Afghanistan’s fragile security structure, system of government, and unstable borders. Since the ousting of the Taliban in 2001, serious flaws in the international community’s approach point to the need for a long-term vision. Poor governance, failure to secure adequate counterterrorism cooperation from Pakistan, and the limited presence of international troops beyond Kabul have greatly undermined the Afghan public’s confidence in their country’s transition and Western promises. The paper concludes: “Complex problems need carefully conceived responses, and when disrupted states are allowed to fester, their problems can easily become toxic for the international system. Afghanistan can find solutions to its problems, but those seeking to help it need great wisdom, courage, and farsightedness. This is the ultimate challenge that Afghanistan poses for the next U.S. president.”

Robbins, James S. “Afghanistan: Back to Basics.” *The Journal of International Security Affairs* no. 15 (Fall 2008). 13 p. <http://www.securityaffairs.org/issues/2008/15/robbins.php> According to this author, the primary strategic challenge in Afghanistan for the new US administration is

arriving at a definition of success – or perhaps victory – in Afghanistan, and then finding a way to eventually declare the mission accomplished and withdraw US troops. “This is unlikely to take place in the foreseeable future.” Robbins also states that the 2009 election will be a referendum on Karzai’s term of office.

Rubin, Barnett and Ahmed Rashid. “From Great Game to Grand Bargain: Ending Chaos in Afghanistan and Pakistan.” 2008. Foreign Affairs, November/December 2008. 6 p. <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20081001faessay87603/barnett-r-rubin-ahmed-rashid/from-great-game-to-grand-bargain.html> (136 KB). This paper suggests that a fresh and enlarged vision is necessary to move beyond the flawed idea that more troops will help US strategy in Afghanistan and the region. Compromise with insurgents and recognition of regional rivalries and insecurities are fundamental to moving beyond current difficulties. “Pakistan’s strategic goals in Afghanistan place Pakistan at odds not just with Afghanistan and India, and with US objectives in the region, but with the entire international community. Yet there is no multilateral framework for confronting this challenge and the US-Afghan bilateral framework has relied excessively on the military-supply relationship. NATO ... has no Pakistan policy” (p. 5).

Suhrke, Astri. “Democratizing a Dependent State: the Case of Afghanistan.” Democratization 15, no. 3. 2008. p 630-648. “The post-Taliban democratic reforms in Afghanistan were, in part, a recreation of the past. Afghanistan has had six constitutions between 1923 and 1990, and most have provided for national assemblies and elections in one form or other. Yet the degree of foreign involvement in the most recent reform process was unprecedented. The heavy foreign hand contradicted the promise of national autonomy, representation, and fair process held out by the democratization agenda. By implicitly devaluing the institutions it sought to promote, the democratization process has also had potentially counterproductive effects. Moreover, while promoting democratization, Western governments simultaneously created a state so dependent on external support that it deprived the critical institution of liberal democracy - the legislature - of its meaning. The logical response of

the National Assembly has been to engage mostly in politics with symbolic or nuisance value. This study focuses on three areas of political reform: the structuring of the interim administration, the promulgation of a new constitution, and the establishment of the legislature” (Abstract).

Refugees

“Afghanistan: Increasing Hardship and Limited Support for Growing Displaced Population.” Geneva: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), October, 2008. 19 p. [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/E7493C8872C5F6B9C12574EF005CD9A5/\\$file/Afghanistan_Overview_Oct08.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/E7493C8872C5F6B9C12574EF005CD9A5/$file/Afghanistan_Overview_Oct08.pdf) (312 KB). This report estimates that more than 200,000 people are currently displaced within Afghanistan because of armed conflict, ethnic tensions or human rights violations, natural disasters such as drought, or secondary displacement (refugees and deportees who have returned from neighbouring countries). The figure does not include those displaced because of conflict between the government, international coalition forces and armed opposition groups.

“Afghanistan: Invest in People.” Washington, D.C.: Refugees International, July 2008. 6 p. www.refugeesinternational.org/policy/in-depth-report/afghanistan-invest-people (PDF, 140 KB). “While all Afghans suffer from the government’s poor capacity and the country’s lack of services, Afghan refugees and returnees have been neglected and are particularly vulnerable. To increase regional stability, the United States and other donor nations must allocate their resources differently to tackle problems that are specific to vulnerable Afghans” (p. 1).

“Displacement and Security in Afghanistan: A Seminar Hosted by the Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, June 2008. 4 p. http://www.brookings.edu/events/2008/~media/Files/events/2008/0623_afghanistan/0623_afghanistan.pdf (30 KB). This report summarises the background, trends, causes of displacement and institutional arrangements covered at this conference.

Research

Suhrke, Astri, Torunn Wimpelmann Chaudhary, Kristian Berg Harpviken, Akbar Sarwari and Arne Strand. "Applied Social Science Research in Afghanistan: An Overview of the Institutional Landscape. Bergen [Norway]: Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2008. 20 p. <http://www.cmi.no/publications/file/?3158=applied-social-science-research-in-afghanistan> (PDF, 167 KB). This report is a preliminary outlining of Afghan institutional capacity in the field of applied social science research, as well as an assessment of the interest in, and potential for, further capacity building. The report focuses on independent research centres and development NGOs that have research activities, and also includes institutes linked to government ministries, the public university sector and, in one case, to a UN agency. At present these are the principal sources of policy-relevant social research.

As with many other aspects of Afghan institutional capacity, the landscape in this field is fragmented, uneven, and highly dependent on foreign resources. The situation reflects both the near-collapse of Afghan academic institutions after decades of violent conflict, and the sudden, massive international re-engagement after 2001. Demand for immediate policy-relevant knowledge to serve reconstruction and statebuilding initially led to much short-term importation of skills. At the same time, Afghan authorities and international donors have recognised the necessity of building local capacity; Afghan expertise has now started to return, and new expertise is being developed.

This study was designed to further this process by identifying the principal institutional features of Afghan applied social science research and suggesting strategies for further capacity-building. The study includes only organizations that in important respects can be said to be Afghan in terms of staffing or organizational structure; virtually all are funded from outside sources. As a rule, international NGOs with offices in Afghanistan were not included, although the dividing line between national and international agencies is not always clear. To map the institutional landscape, the authors collected data on organizational objectives, structure and published output. They recorded strategies for further capacity building as expressed by representatives of the organizations concerned. Information was obtained by accessing electronic and print-based sources, and through a series of structured interviews with organizational representatives carried out in Kabul in July and October 2008.

Security

"Armed Conflict and Civilian Casualties, Afghanistan, Trends and Developments 01 January -31 August 2008." Kabul: UNAMA, 2008. 5 p. (PDF, 68 KB). Brief review of civilian casualty figures with analysis and recommendations.

Inspector General, United States Department of Defense. Assessment of arms, ammunition, and explosives control and accountability: Security assistance and sustainment for the Afghan National Security Forces. Arlington, Virginia: Office of the Assistant Inspector General for Special Plans & Operations, October 2008. 222 p. <http://www.dodig.mil/spo/reports.html> (PDF, 3.1 MB). This study, conducted in April 2008, assesses issues involving the accountability and

control of arms, ammunition, and explosives. The responsiveness of US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) processes in supporting Afghanistan's National Security Force (ANSF) was also assessed. The study also reviews the development of ANSF logistics capabilities and progress in building the Afghan military health care system.

Browne, Des. "Iraq, Afghanistan and Beyond: Military Operations in the 21st century." Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 10 July, 2008. http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0710_browne/20080710_browne.pdf (84 KB). Transcript of a talk by the UK Secretary of State for Defense.

Cordesman, Anthony H. "The Afghan-Pakistan War: A Status Report." Washington, D.C.: The

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 12 May 2008. 233 p. http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080512_afghanstatus_trend.pdf (6.18 MB) and “Losing the Afghan-Pakistan war?” Washington, D.C.: The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 14 September, 2008. 113 p. http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080917_afghanthreat.pdf (3.26 MB). While criticizing a lack of consistent analytic reporting of events in Afghanistan, this author attempts to provide a comprehensive briefing on the current status of the efforts to battle the insurgency in Afghanistan. Both papers cite figures from a variety of sources.

Cordesman, Anthony H. “Follow the Money: Why the US is Losing the War in Afghanistan: draft.” Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), September 2008. 26 p. ; 30 cm. http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080919_afghanwarcosts.pdf (932 KB). “Most of the literature on the cost of the Iraq War, Afghan war, and “war on terrorism” focuses on the burden it places on the US federal budget and the US economy. These are very real issues, but they also have deflected attention from another key issue: whether the war in Afghanistan is being properly funded and being given the resources necessary to win” (p. 2).

Cordesman, Anthony. “Winning the war in Afghanistan: the Realities of 2009.” Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 2008. 7 p. http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_pubs/task,view/id,5062/type,1/ This article claims that the US, NATO/ISAF and Afghan government may still win tactical clashes, as may the Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps, but this is not the real war. The real war is political, ideological and a struggle for the control of political and economic space in Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is also a war of political attrition.

“Future US Security Relationships with Iraq and Afghanistan.” Santa Monica, California: RAND, 2008. 182 p. ISBN 9780833041975. Released with “Flexibility and Sensitivity to Local Concerns are Crucial to Long-term US Security Relations with Iraq and Afghanistan.” 3 p. (Research brief). <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG681/> (PDFs, 1.04 MB, 140 KB).

The long-term intentions of the United States toward Iraq and Afghanistan are in flux. Clarifying the kinds of security relationships it intends to pursue is essential to securing stability and trust. Bilateral and multilateral security relationships will need to be robust enough to advance mutual interests, flexible enough to respond to emerging political conditions, and muted enough to avoid inflaming local sensitivities (Abstract).

Green, Dan. “Saving Afghanistan: Why the Iraq Strategy isn’t the Answer. 2008. Armed Forces Journal, 11, November 2008. 2 p. <http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2008/11/3738650> (HTML, 276 KB). This short opinion piece draws from practical experience in Iraq and Afghanistan and makes suggestions specific to Afghanistan, including an increase in resources for non-military components of the development and reconstruction process to parallel any increase in troop numbers.

Gregory, Shann. “Towards a Containment Strategy in the FATA.” Bradford: University of Bradford, Pakistan Security Research Unit (PSRU), October 2008. 10 p. <http://spaces.brad.ac.uk:8080/download/attachments/748/Brief43.pdf> (368 KB). This paper suggests a strategy to decouple the dynamics of events in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan from events and processes in Afghanistan, which will also provide a way for the new civilian government in Pakistan to begin to engage with issues in the FATA. Other papers from this new research unit are available on their webpage: <http://spaces.brad.ac.uk:8080/display/ssispsru/Publications>.

Hippel, Karin von. “Confronting Two Key Challenges in Afghanistan: PCR Project Research Visit.” Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), October 2008. 6 p. ; 30 cm. http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/081020_kvh_afghanistan.pdf (216 KB). This report focuses on two key areas that have recently come to the fore: whether and how to talk to the Taliban, and the lines of authority for the US and coalition forces. According to this paper, resolving these two items would make a fundamental contribution to the overall goal to build a safe, secure and effective Afghan state.

Hunter, Robert Edward. "Integrating Instruments of Power and Influence: Lessons Learned and Best Practices." Santa Monica, California: RAND, 2008. xv, 79 p. ISBN 9780833045065. http://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/2008/RAND_CF251.pdf (1.4 KB). This conspectus study of recent US military involvements includes examination of US military policy in Afghanistan since 2001, along with the Yugoslav War (1991-1995), the Kosovo civil war (1998-1999) and the Iraq War (2003-). The role of the EU and NATO is also examined.

Khosa, Raspal. "Coming to Terms with the Taliban-dominated Insurgency." Barton, ACT, Australia: Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), 2008. 8 p. http://www.aspi.org.au/publications/publication_details.aspx?ContentID=191&pubtype=9 (PDF, 500 KB). This paper discusses the nature of the escalating, Taliban-dominated insurgency in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and examines prospects of a troop surge as a response.

Munir, Muhammad. "Suicide Attacks and Islamic Law." *International Review of the Red Cross*, 90, no. 869. March 2008, p. 71-89. [http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/review-869-p71/\\$File/irrc-869_Munir.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/review-869-p71/$File/irrc-869_Munir.pdf) (168 KB). Suicide attacks are a recurrent feature of many conflicts. Whereas warfare heroism and martyrdom are allowed in certain circumstances in times of war, a suicide bomber might be committing at least five crimes according to Islamic law: killing civilians, mutilating their bodies, violating the trust of enemy soldiers and civilians, committing suicide, and destroying civilian objects or properties. The author examines such attacks from an Islamic justice within war perspective.

"NATO in Afghanistan: A Test of the Transatlantic Alliance." Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service (CRS), 23 October 2008. (CRS Report for Congress RL33627). <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33627.pdf> (330 KB). This report provides an overview of the mission and activities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Afghanistan. It summarizes the evolution of NATO's mission there, and the viewpoints of Germany, the Netherlands, the US, Britain, Canada and France.

"Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq." Washington, D.C.: United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), October 2008. 20 p. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0986r.pdf> (PDF, 480 KB). This report describes the organization, staffing and funding for Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq. It excludes information released in the September 2008 report ("Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and Iraq", GAO-08-905RSU). The study is based on published reports, interviews with government officials, ISAF members, and other sources. It is a useful official summary of the current situation.

Stanekezai, Mohammad Masoom. "Thwarting Afghanistan's Insurgency: A Pragmatic Approach Toward Peace and Reconciliation." Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Special Report 212, September 2008. <http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr212.html> (474 KB). "Although military and peacekeeping operations are absolutely vital for creating a secure environment conducive to state building and reconstruction, present trends raise serious doubts about whether military solutions alone will be able to defeat the insurgency and stem the expansion of terrorism. In short, reconciliation must also be a key element of stabilization operations in Afghanistan. Although the danger that Afghanistan could once again become a failed state is real, the chance to stabilize Afghanistan is not lost: broad support is emerging for an effective national reconciliation and negotiation program that will end the bloodshed" (p. 2-3).

"Struggle for Kabul: The Taliban Advance." London: MF Publishing, December 2008. 40 p. http://www.icosgroup.net/modules/reports/struggle_for_kabul (PDF, 2.1 MB). According to this report, produced by the International Council on Security and Development (formerly The Senlis Council), the Taliban have made major advances in gaining control of larger and larger parts of Afghanistan, including the area around Kabul.

List of New Laws Published in the Official Gazette

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947	18 June 2008	Law on the [Sale] of Immovable Properties to Diplomatic Representations of Foreign Countries and International Organizations Forensic Medicine
949	23 June 2008	The Law on Academy of Science of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Law on Cooperation
950	2 July 2008	Regulation of Legal Aid
952	15 July 2008	Law Against Terrorism Crimes Counter Abduction and Human Trafficking Law
954	22 July 2008	Insurance Law Presidential Decree of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
955	24 July 2008	Education Law
957	29 July 2008	Procurement Law Law on the Supervision and Implementation of Anti Corruption Strategies
958	31 July 2008	Law on Managing Land Affairs
959	21 August 2008	Registration of Commercial Documents and Trademarks